

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), as indicated below:

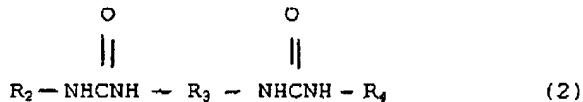
1 (currently amended): A nitrate nitrite free grease composition for avoiding an abnormal peeling of a rolling surface of a bearing comprising:

a base oil,

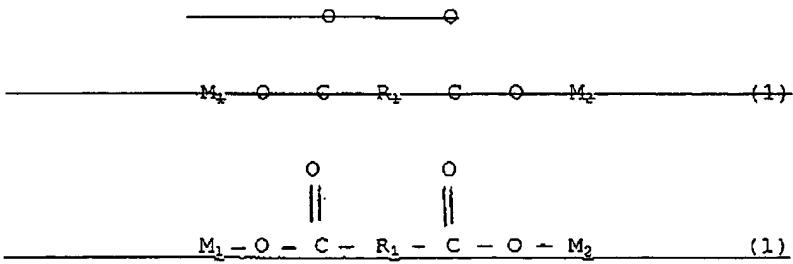
a thickener, and

an additive,

wherein the base oil contains 20% by weight or more of alkylidiphenyl ether oil in the base oil, and has a kinetic viscosity of 20 to 150 mm²/s at 40 degree °C, and wherein the thickener is an aromatic diurea compound represented by the following formula (2)



Where [(R2)] R₂ and [(R4)] R₄ are the same or different, and represent each an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and [(R3)] R₃ represents an aromatic hydrocarbon group having 6 to 15 carbon atoms, and is contained in an amount of 5 to 30% by weight based on the total amount of the base oil and the thickener, and wherein the additive contains as an essential component 0.05 to 10 parts by weight of a metal salt of a dibasic acid based on 100 parts by weight of the base oil and the thickener, the metal salt of the dibasic acid being represented by the following formula:



where M_1 and M_2 represent the same or different alkali metal, and R_1 represents aliphatic hydrocarbon group or an aromatic hydrocarbon group said grease containing no nitrite.

2 (canceled)

3 (previously presented): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base oil contains synthesized hydrocarbon oil.

4-6 (canceled)

7 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the R_2 and R_4 is $C_6H_4(CH_3)$, and the R_3 is $C_6H_4CH_2C_4H_4$

8 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the M_1 and M_2 are each lithium, sodium, or potassium.

9 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt of the dibasic acid is one of a metal salt of azelaic acid, sebacic acid and adipic acid.

10 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 9, wherein the metal salt of the dibasic acid is sodium sebacate.

11 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additive comprises 0.05 to 5 parts by weight of an antioxidant in addition to the metal salt of the dibasic acid based on 100 parts by weight of the base oil and the thickener.

12 (currently amended): The grease composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of a sulfur-containing antioxidant, a phenol-based antioxidant and an amine-based antioxidant.

13 (original) A grease composition sealed bearing, in which a sliding part of the bearing is sealed with the grease as claimed in claim 1.